



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 17 2008

OFFICE OF  
ENFORCEMENT AND  
COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE

Mr. Chris Harding  
Environmental Planning Division  
Department of the Navy  
Naval Facilities Engineering Command Atlantic  
6506 Hampton Blvd. Bldg. A  
Norfolk, VA 23508

Dear Mr. Harding:

In accordance with our responsibilities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the U.S. Department of the Navy's final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Introduction of the P-8A Multi-Mission Maritime Aircraft (MMA) into the U.S. Navy Fleet (CEQ# 20080466).

The Navy is proposing to provide facilities and functions to support 12 P-8A MMA fleet squadrons (72 aircraft) and one fleet replacement squadron (FRS) (12 aircraft) at established maritime patrol homebases. Six action alternatives and no action were considered, which included the following installations: Naval Air Station (NAS) Jacksonville, Florida; Naval Air Station (NAS) Whidbey Island, Washington; Naval Air Station (NAS) North Island, California; and Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH), Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii. The Navy's Preferred Alternative would homebase five fleet squadrons and an FRS at NAS Jacksonville, four fleet squadrons at NAS Whidbey Island, and three fleet squadrons at MCBH Kaneohe Bay, with periodic squadron detachments at NAS North Island.

The final EIS analyzed the potential impacts on air operations; noise; air quality; land use and coastal zone management; socioeconomic; transportation; infrastructure; topography, geology and soils; water resources and wetlands; biological resources; cultural resources; and environmental contamination. EPA expressed no environmental concerns about the proposed action discussed in the draft EIS; the final EIS presents no information that would alter our original position. Accordingly, EPA reiterates that it has no environmental concerns about the proposed action.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this final EIS. The staff contact for this review is Candi Schaedle; she can be reached at (202) 564-6121.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan E. Bromm".

Susan E. Bromm  
Director  
Office of Federal Activities